

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2833

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TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJ: UN FINANCES - COMMITTEE ON THE FINANCIAL EMERGENCY
(COMMITTEE OF 54)

REF: USUN 2657

1. IN REPLY TO RECENT REQUEST OF COMMITTEE OF 54 CHAIRMAN BOATEN (GHANA), GOVERNOR SCRANTON AND MISOFF MET TO DISCUSS WORK OF COMMITTEE. BOATEN OPENED BY SAYING THAT HE HAD MET PRIVATELY WITH WEO, G-77, AND EE GROUPS PLUS SOVIETS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH NEGOTIATIONS. BOATEN EMPHASIZED HIS VIEW THAT ROLE OF COMMITTEE WAS TO WORK TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO FINANCIAL PROBLEM, AND FOR THIS REASON HE WAS HOLDING CONSULTATIONS IN HOPE OF FINDING A NEGOTIATING BASE. BOATEN'S PLAN IS TO SUBMIT TO COMMITTEE OF 54 A APPER PREPARED BY HIM AS CHAIRMAN WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL INCORPORATE AREAS ON WHICH THERE IS SOME AGREEMENT AND BE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO TAKE PLACE. OF PRIMARY CONCERN, BOATEN NOTED, IS TO MINIMIZE CONFRONTATION USING APPROACH SIMILAR TO THAT TAKEN BY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING (DADZI).

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY MISOFF ON RESULT OF BOATEN'S TALKS WITH SOVIETS, HE SAID THEY WERE FRIENDLY BUT NON-COMMITTAL. HE HAD FOCUSSED ON PROBLEMS CREATED BY SOVIETS
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IN PAYING PART OF THEIR REGULAR BUDGET ASSESSMENT IN NON-

CONVERTIBLE RUBLES AND SUGGESTED THAT THEY CONSIDER PAYING A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THEIR REGULAR BUDGET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ASSESSMENT IN CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES AND A SMALL PORTION IN NON-CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES ALONG PATTERN OF UNDP. BOATEN SAID HE EMPHASIZED TO SOVIETS THAT SINCE USE OF THEIR NON-CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES WOULD REQUIRE EXPENDITURES IN CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES (ROUGHLY 50/50), HE INTENDED TO PRESS THEM HARD.

3. RE PAPER PREPARED BY PAKISTAN AND NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION BY G-77, BOATEN SAID HE CONSIDERED IT TO BE ONE GROUP'S VIEWS OF OTHER GROUPS, PLUS US AND USSR INTO HIS PAPER; BEFORE PRESENTING HIS PAPER TO COMMITTEE BOATEN WILL SHOW IT TO EACH GROUP AS WELL AS US AND USSR, FOR THEIR PRELIMINARY REACTION. HE THEN WILL SUBMIT PAPER TO COMMITTEE, HOPEFULLY SOMETIME IN EARLY AUGUST. GIVEN COMPLEXITY OF PROBLEM, WHICH BOATEN STRESSED WAS MORE POLITICAL THAN TECHNICAL, HE SAID HE BELIEVES PROGRESS WILL BE SLOW AND DOES NOT ANTICIPATE COMMITTEE SUBMITTING OTHER THAN PRELIMINARY REPORT TO 31ST UNGA.

4. BOATEN ASKED FOR USG VIEWS ON HOW TO HANDLE REGULAR BUDGET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. GOVERNOR SCRANTON AND MISOFF REPLIED THAT USG OFTEN STATED POSITION WAS TO REMOVE THIS ITEM FROM UN REGULAR BUDGET, RECALLING RECOMMENDATION OF COMMITTEE OF 15. BOATEN SAID HE PERSONALLY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND INSISTENCE OF SOME LDC'S TO KEEP THIS ITEM IN REGULAR BUDGET SINCE IT APPEARED TO HIM TO BE AN ANACHRONISM BUT RECOGNIZED ARGUMENT WAS BASED ON MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, HOWEVER WEAK AND SHORTSIGHTED THAT MIGHT BE. BOATEN EXPRESSED HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT A WAY COULD BE FOUND TO GET AROUND THIS QUESTION AND THAT WE MIGHT RECONSIDER OUR POSITION IF FORWARD MOVEMENT IS MADE ON OTHER ASPECTS OF PROBLEM.

5. GOVERNOR SCRANTON REITERATED TO BOATEN OUR DESIRE TO FIND A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION TO OVERALL LONGSTANDING UN FINANCIAL PROBLEM, OUR EXPECTATION THAT ANY SOLUTION WOULD BE EQUITABLE AND BALANCED, OUR HOPE THAT CONFRONTATION WOULD BE MINIMIZED, AND OUR EXPECTATION THAT OUR VIEWS WOULD BE FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY HIM IN DRAFTING CHAIRMAN'S PAPER. FURTHERMORE, CONFIDENTIAL

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GOVERNOR SCRANTON TOLD BOATEN THAT WE APPRECIATED HIS EFFORTS, IN PARTICULAR HIS DESIRE TO PROCEED IN A WAY TO AVOID CONFRONTATION, AND HIS INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO CONSULT WITH US. IN CONCLUSION, GOVERNOR SCRANTON MADE CLEAR TO BOATEN THAT WE EXPECTED ANY SOLUTION TO INCLUDE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS BY THOSE WHO CAUSED THE PROBLEM IN THE FIRST PLACE, ESPECIALLY THE SOVIET UNION.

6. AT BOATEN'S REQUEST, WE AGREED TO PROVIDE HIM WITH OUR PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF OVERALL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING IDEAS WE MIGHT HAVE ON HOW TO SOLVE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. BOATEN WAS APPRECIATE OF OUR RESPONSE AND SAID HE HOPED THAT HE COULD HAVE OUR VIEWS WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS SO THAT HE COULD PREPARE HIS PAPER.

7. COMMENT: MISSION BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT THAT WE RESPOND TO BOATEN IN AS COMPLETE AND FORTHRIGHT MANNER AS POSSIBLE SO THAT OUR VIEWS WILL BE KNOWN TO HIM WHEN HE PREPARES CHAIRMAN'S PAPER WHICH, HOPEFULLY, WILL TAKE THESE FULLY INTO ACCOUNT. WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS.
SCRANTON

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